of Railways. Production of ICF is marginally lower compared to Rail Coach Factory (RCF), Kapurthala as this unit has more number of Electric Multiple Units (EMUs) and Diesel Multiple Units (DMUs) in its product mix.

(c) A work has been sanctioned in 2006-07 for augmentation of capacity for manufacture of 1500 coaches per year at ICF, Chennai anticipating the future increase in requirement of coaches.

Tatkal reservation of tickets

†*548. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'Tatkal Reservation of Tickets' scheme of Railways is under the grip of touts;

(b) the details of the measures taken by Government to break the network of said touts at the railway stations; and

(c) whether Government have made any arrangement to refund the money of those passengers in the train itself who alongwith other passengers reserve their seats under single ticket but decide to cancel or postpone their journey?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No case of rampant corruption in revised Tatkal Scheme has come to notice. However, to avoid misuse of this scheme various steps have been taken which includes enhancing the Tatkal charges, issuing of Waiting List tickets, keeping the reservations under Tatkal scheme open upto preparation of charts etc. Checks are also conducted from time to time check malpractices in reservation including Tatkal Reservation Scheme.

(c) No, Sir.

Recruitment of Rail Hostesses

†*549. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to recruit rail hostesses on the lines of air hostesses; and

(b) if so, the criteria for their appointments and what would be their service conditions?

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†Original notice of question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Private investment in Railways

550. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether private investors have been urged to avail of the liberalized policy announced by his Ministry for the faster growth of this sector;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry has taken several measures to upgrade and modernize rail infrastructure;

(c) whether adoption of the liberal policy had resulted in Railways making a record profit of Rs. 13,000 crores in the last financial year and expected to reach Rs. 20,000 crore this year;

(d) if so, whether Railways have already initiated three projects through joint venture; and

(e) to what extent, private sector has shown keenness in investing in Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Railways achieved a pre-dividend internal generation of more than Rs. 13,000 crores in the year 2005-06. The amount is expected to cross the budgeted figure of Rs. 15,250 crores for the year 2006-07.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Several schemes such as Wagon Investment Scheme, running of container trains and luxury tourist trains, etc. aimed at involving private participation in Railway projects have evoked encouraging response.

Dereserving items for small scale sector

551. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal under consideration of Government to dereserve the remaining 326 items for exclusive development of the small scale sector;